

Production No. 7F09

The Simpsons

"ITCHY & SCRATCHY & MARGE "

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TABLE DRAFT

Date 6/18/90

NOTE: FOR TABLE READING ONLY

"ITCHY & SCRATCHY & MARGE"

Cast List

HOMER.....DAN CASTELLANETA
MARGE.....JULIE KAVNER
BART.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
LISA.....YEARDLEY SMITH
NELSON.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
KENT BROCKMAN.....HARRY SHEARER
MARVIN MONROE.....HARRY SHEARER
MAUDE FLANDERS.....MAGGIE ROSWELL
MRS. KRABAPPEL.....MAGGIE ROSWELL
MILHOUSE.....PAMELA HAYDEN
KRUSTY THE KLOWN.....DAN CASTELLANETA
HELEN LOVEJOY.....MAGGIE ROSWELL
SHOPOWNER.....HARRY SHEARER
1ST BOARD MEMBER.....HARRY SHEARER
2ND BOARD MEMBER.....HARRY SHEARER
ANIMATOR.....DAN CASTELLANETA
ANNOUNCER.....HARRY SHEARER
SQUIRREL.....JULIE KAVNER
SCRATCHY.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
ITCHY.....PAMELA HAYDEN

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MOTHER.....MAGGIE ROSWELL

CURATOR.....DAN CASTELLANETA

REPORTER.....MAGGIE ROSWELL

ROGER MYERS.....

ITCHY & SCRATCHY & MARGE

BY

JOHN SWARTZWELDER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. SIMPSON KITCHEN

MARGE is in the kitchen making dinner. We see her shaking a wide variety of spices onto some breaded pork chops. HOMER is looking over her shoulder, admiring her handiwork. We can hear Bart and Lisa **LAUGHING O.S.**

HOMER

You know, Marge, you make the best pork chops in the whole world.

MARGE

(GENUINE MODESTY) Oh now, Homer, I don't do anything different than anyone else. Now, where's the rosemary?

Marge looks through the dozens of spice bottles on the counter until she finds the rosemary. She shakes a little of it on the pork chops.

HOMER

(DETERMINED TO PRAISE HER) Well... they sure taste better the way you make 'em. You must do something different.

MARGE

(ADDING SPICES FROM VARIOUS JARS)

Marjoram... thyme... all I add is care,
Homer... chevril... chevril... where is
that jar of chevril?

HOMER

Hey, you know what you need? A spice
rack! I'll go build you one right now.

MARGE

You don't have to go to all that
trouble. Oh, here it is.

Marge finds the bottle containing the chevril and adds a
pinch to the pork chops.

HOMER

It's no trouble. I've got a whole
garageful of tools I never use.

Homer exits into the garage.

ON TV:

We see the opening of the Itchy & Scratchy Show. Itchy and
Scratchy are running towards the camera **POUNDING** each other
over the head with mallets as the **THEME SONG** plays.

ON TITLE CARD: "HOLD THAT FELINE"

Scratchy is waiting the for kick-off on a football field.
Itchy lights a fuse in a teed-up football and kicks off.
Scratchy fields the ball and there's a huge **EXPLOSION**,
leaving a crater in the field. A scorched, blackened
Scratchy falls into the hole and is immediately jumped on
by an entire football team coming from all directions.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

BART, LISA and MAGGIE are on the couch watching TV. Bart
and Lisa are **LAUGHING**. We **PULL IN** on Maggie, who's
watching with wide-eyed fascination.

INT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Homer crosses the obviously unused garage that's packed with obviously unused tools, many with the original plastic still covering them. He walks to a shelf that has Volume One of every handyman encyclopedia ever made. They look like they've never been opened.

HOMER

(TO HIMSELF) I knew all this stuff
would come in handy some day. Let's
see now... ah, here it is. The
Complete Handyman's Bookshelf. Volume
One. Spice Racks.

Homer takes the volume off the shelf and puts it on his unused workbench. He crosses to a small pile of unused wood, selects one that still has the small red flag on it, lays it on the workbench and opens the spice rack book to page one.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(READING) "Pick - up - a - ham -
mer..."

He picks up a hammer. It has a price tag dangling from it.

SAME SCENE - HALF HOUR LATER

Homer has nailed a number of small pieces of wood together in a form that could pass for a spice rack. He frequently consults the book for reference. There is a pile of discarded wood on the floor with nails sticking out of each piece at crazy angles. Homer is sweating and **MUTTERING**.

SAME SCENE - FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER

Homer holds up the finished spice rack. It looks terrible.

HOMER (CON'T)

(AWED BY HIS ACHIEVEMENT) Wowww....

He sets the spice rack next to the book to compare them.

CLOSEUP - SPICE RACK NEXT TO PHOTO OF SPICE RACK

HOMER (CONT'D, O.S.)

Identical!

Suddenly we HEAR **PSYCHO-TYPE MUSIC** stings.

NEW ANGLE

Maggie is on the stairway above Homer's head. She is holding a large mallet. As the **PSYCHO MUSIC** continues, she bashes Homer over the head with a mallet with all her might.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXTREME CLOSEUP - HOMER'S EYE

In a move exactly like the end of the shower scene in "Psycho,"

CAMERA MOVES OUT

to Homer's lifeless body which is sprawled on the garage floor. We hear a deep dull **TRAGIC STING** and the scene slowly fades.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT EVENING

Homer is lying on the couch, his head bandaged. Large quantities of blood have dried on the bandages. Marge is fussing with his pillow. Bart and Lisa are sitting on the couch too, trying to see around Homer's swollen head so they can watch TV.

BART

Hey, Dad. Can you move your head?

HOMER

(SELF-PITY) No, I can't. It's broken.

MARGE

I can't imagine what got into Maggie.

Where would she get an idea like that?

Maggie walks up to Homer and **SUCKS**. Homer backs away.

HOMER

Keep her away from me, Marge! She's
got that crazy look in her eyes again.
She's getting ready to finish me off.

MARGE

Come on, Maggie.

Marge picks up Maggie and sets her down in front of the TV.

ON TV

We can see that an Itchy & Scratchy cartoon (TITLE CARD:
"KITCHEN KUT-UPS") is on TV and that the two stars are
dressed as chefs and are **WHACKING** each other over the head
with meat tenderizing mallets with tremendous force as the
food they are preparing burns.

BACK TO LIVING ROOM

BART/LISA

(LAUGH)

Marge looks at the TV.

ON TV

Just as Itchy **SMASHES** Scratchy's head entirely flat with a
mighty blow.

BACK TO LIVING ROOM

MARGE

(GASP) So that's where she gets it!

Who would have ever thought that
television was responsible?

ON TV

Scratchy is pinned to a butcher block with knives through
his clothing. Itchy is trying to stab him, but Scratchy's
chest keeps moving sideways to avoid being hit. Finally,
Itchy stabs him in the heart. In the b.g. there's a
butcher's chart showing various cuts of cats.

BACK TO LIVING ROOM

Maggie picks up a sharp pencil and starts heading for Homer, the pencil raised in her clenched fist. We start to hear the **PSYCHO STINGS** again, but they stop when Marge picks Maggie up and takes away the pencil.

MARGE

No, Maggie! Bad baby!

Marge turns off the TV.

BART/LISA

We were watching that!

MARGE

Well, you won't be watching it anymore.
Ever. I had no idea cartoons could be
such a bad influence on children.

BART

(STUNNED) Hey, wait a minute!

LISA

But, Mom! If you take our cartoons
away, we'll grow up without a sense of
humor and be robots.

BART

(TO LISA. INTERESTED) Really? What
kind of robots?

EXT. SCHOOLGROUNDS - NEXT MORNING

Bart is walking up to the monkeybars, where MILHOUSE is hanging upside down eating part of his lunch. NELSON crosses to Bart and puts a sympathetic hand on his shoulder.

NELSON

(SOMBERLY) I heard about the cartoons.
Tough break, man.

BART

Thanks, Nelson. (TO MILHOUSE) So...
Milhouse... what did I miss yesterday?

MILHOUSE

Scratchy was a mad scientist and he
built this huge machine with all kinds
of electrodes and everything, and then
he hit Itchy with it.

BART

(PAINED) Oh, no. How could I have
missed that?

MILHOUSE

Hey, want to catch today's show over at
my house? My parents don't care what I
watch as long as I shut up.

BART

(NEVER THOUGHT OF THIS) At your house?
Hmmm... I could do that... of course,
it would be wrong...

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - THAT AFTERNOON

Homer is laying down on the couch surrounded by empty
plates, beer cans, and snack product bags. He's talking on
the phone.

HOMER

(INTO PHONE) You heard me. I won't be
in for the rest of the week. (LISTENS)
I told you. My baby beat me up.
(LISTENS) It is not the worst excuse I
ever thought up.

Homer hangs up the phone as Marge enters carrying a
looseleaf notebook and looks around the childless living
room.

MARGE

I wonder why Bart and Lisa are so late
getting home from school?

INT. MILHOUSE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bart and Milhouse are sitting in front of the TV.

ON TV

The title card reads "Messenger of Death." Scratchy
answers the DOORBELL and is given a bouquet of flowers by a
uniformed MESSENGER who looks suspiciously like Itchy.
Scratchy **SNIFFS** deeply at the bouquet and it **EXPLODES** into
ten thousand pieces.

CAMERA PANS

to Itchy who is holding a smoking bazooka.

INT. JANEY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Lisa and JANEY are watching Itchy & Scratchy and **LAUGHING**.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Marge has moved a chair up in front of the TV.

ON TV

Itchy chases Scratchy with a sledgehammer.

BACK TO LIVING ROOM

Marge is frowning and making notes in her small looseleaf
notebook. Homer is watching her curiously from the couch.

HOMER

Hey, how come you can watch cartoons
but the kids can't?

MARGE

(PREOCCUPIED) Because.

HOMER

Because why?

MARGE

Because I said so.

HOMER

Because you said so, why?

MARGE

(FRUSTRATED) Homer! I'm trying to
work!

HOMER

Oh. (BEAT) What are you doing?

MARGE

I'm cataloguing the violence in these
cartoons. I don't think parents have
ever actually sat down and watched them
before. It's hard to believe they're
made for children.

ON TV

Itchy hits Scratchy in the back of the head with a
sledgehammer. Scratchy's eyes fly out. Scratchy staggers
around looking for them. Itchy gives Scratchy two **HISSING**
bombs. Scratchy forces the bombs into his eyesockets, then
goes over to a mirror and begins combing his hair. He sees
his reflection in the mirror, notices the bombs and runs
around **SCREAMING** until he **EXPLODES**.

BACK TO HOMER AND MARGE

MARGE

What kind of warped human being would
find that funny?

HOMER

Heh, heh, heh.

CLOSEUP - MARGE'S NOTEBOOK

Marge checks a box that says "Cats Blown Up." Other boxes that have already been checked include "Mice Launched," "Deadly Flowers Delivered," "Dogs Tricked," "Gophers Buried Alive," "Eyes Knocked Out," "Noses Pulled Off," "Heads Chopped Off," "Disembowelings" and "Brains Slammed In Car Door." Marge looks back up at the television.

ON TV

CLOSEUP of Scratchy's grave. It says "Scratchy. Rest In Peace." There are wires leading away from the grave. CAMERA PANS along the wires until it comes to Itchy, who winks at the camera and then presses the plunger on the detonator. Scratchy's grave **BLOWS UP**, throwing Scratchy's **SCREAMING**, burning skeleton comically high into the air.

BACK TO HOMER AND MARGE

Homer is eating a sandwich.

HOMER

(CHEWING. POINTING OUT AN INTERESTING
FACT) That cat and mouse sure don't
like each other.

MARGE

(SHAKING HER HEAD) Blowing up each
other's graves! (BEAT) This is the
kind of entertainment they think is
suitable for younger and more
impressionable viewers?

HOMER

(EATING. PHILOSOPHICALLY) Yeah, but
what are ya gonna do?

MARGE

(SUDDEN RESOLUTION) What am I going to
do? I'll tell you what I'm going to
do. I'm going to put a stop to it.

HOMER

(CHEWING) You are? (SWALLOWS) When?

MARGE

Right now. (DRAMATICALLY) Homer, I'm
going to write a letter.

Marge goes over to the desk and sits down. She takes out a
sheet of writing paper that is headed "From the Mind of
Marge" and begins writing.

MARGE

(WRITING) "Dear Purveyors of Senseless
Violence: I know this may sound silly
at first..."

INT. ADVERTISING AGENCY

A couple of AD GUYS are looking at Marge's letter with
wiseguy looks on their faces. An ad showing Itchy enjoying
a Duff is on their drawing board.

MARGE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

"... but please bear with me..."

One of the ad guys crumples up the letter and throws it
away.

INT. TV STUDIO - KRUSTY'S DRESSING ROOM

KRUSTY is holding Marge's letter at various angles, trying
to figure out what the letter might mean.

MARGE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

"... I believe that the cartoons you
show to our children are influencing
their behavior in a negative way..."

Frustrated, Krusty crumples up the letter and throws it
away.

EXT. ITCHY & SCRATCHY INTERNATIONAL - FRONT GATE

We see a mammoth factory, with tall stacks belching black
smoke. The massive wrought iron gates say "Itchy &
Scratchy International." The logo features a wrought iron
cat chopping a mouse in half vertically with an axe. The
camera MOVES IN slowing through the bars.

INT. I & S INTERNATIONAL - ANIMATOR'S OFFICE

An ANIMATOR, who has an office with a window, is reading
Marge's letter. Crude drawings of Itchy and Scratchy
destroying each other line the walls of his office. There
are also several tacky looking awards.

MARGE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

"... please try to tone down the
psychotic violence..."

He crumples up the letter, without emotion, and throws it
into a basketball hoop wastebasket.

INT. CHAIRMAN I & S INTERNATIONAL'S OFFICE

ROGER MYERS, a large round bald man with a permanent frown
is smoking a cigar at a huge desk. He's surrounded by all
manner of Itchy and Scratchy merchandising. Behind him are
airbrushed portraits of Itchy & Scratchy. He is reading
Marge's letter. A SECRETARY is standing off to one side,
notepad in hand.

MARGE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

"... in your otherwise fine
programming. Yours truly, Marge
Simpson."

He puts down the letter and thinks for a moment. His frown
seems to deepen and become a little more permanent.

ROGER MYERS

Take a letter, Miss White. (DICTATING)

"Dear Valued Viewer: We are pleased that you have taken an interest in the Itchy & Scratchy Program, and hope you will continue to enjoy it in the future. Enclosed is a personally autographed photo of America's favorite cat and mouse team to add to your collection. In regards to your specific comments about the show, there is no real need for us to respond to them..."

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Marge is reading the letter with a frown.

ROGER MYERS (O.S.) (CONT'D)

"... because research indicates that one person cannot make a difference, no matter how big a screwball she is. Yours truly, blah, blah, blah."

Marge angrily crumples up the letter and the photo.

MARGE

I'll show them what one screwball can do.

FADE OUT:

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. ITCHY & SCRATCHY INTERNATIONAL - FRONT GATE

Marge, Homer, Maggie, Bart, and Lisa are all picketing. Marge is carrying a sign that says "I'm protesting because Itchy & Scratchy are indirectly responsible for my husband being hit on the head with a mallet." This sign is very hard to read from any distance and curious PASSERSBY are forced to stand very close to the sign and squint. Homer is carrying a sign that says "Please ban violent cartoons. Next time I might not be so lucky." Maggie is waving a little sign like a pennant. It says "Stop me before I kill my father again." Bart and Lisa are both unhappily carrying signs that say "Ban Itchy & Scratchy." Bart surreptitiously writes in the word "Don't" at the top of his sign and looks less unhappy.

HOMER

(LOW, TO MARGE) Everybody's looking at us, Marge.

MARGE

That's what we want them to do, Homer.

HOMER

Oh. (BEAT) How long are we going to be doing this?

MARGE

Well, I've never changed the world before, so I don't know how long it takes exactly. But if enough people take an interest...

MAUDE FLANDERS stops, looks at Marge, then looks at a large free-standing sign near Homer. It says "Join SNUH NOW!"

MAUDE

Marge!

MARGE

Oh, hello, Maude. (INDICATES PROTEST SIGN) I've started a crusade against cartoon violence.

MAUDE

(POLITE INTEREST) Oh! (BEAT) What does SNUH mean?

MARGE

It stands for "Springfieldians for Nonviolence, Understanding and Helping."

MAUDE

Couldn't you have come up with something a little easier to remember? Like... uh... "S-A-V-E" -- Save!

MARGE

(DEFENSIVELY) Well what does that stand for?

MAUDE

(THINKS) Um... oh, I don't know... "Springfieldites Against Violent Entertainment."

MARGE

Well, I have to admit that is better,
but I've already made all these signs.
Besides, the name isn't as important as
our cause. I can protect my own
children from those awful cartoons but
there are many other children in
Springfield who are still being warped
by them.

Bart hears this and looks at his watch.

BART

That reminds me. It's almost four
o'clock. I've gotta get over to
Milhouse's house and... uh... play
baseball.

MARGE

All right.

Bart puts down his sign. Lisa puts hers down too.

LISA

And I'm going over to Janey's again.
We're going to be... um... making the
most of our childhood years.

MARGE

Have fun.

BART/LISA

We will.

They hurry off, stifling guilty **GIGGLES**. Maude Flanders
picks up Bart's sign and joins the demonstration.

SAME SCENE - SOME TIME LATER

There are now a half a dozen PEOPLE who have joined the crusade, including REVEREND LOVEJOY, HELEN LOVEJOY, NED FLANDERS, PRINCIPAL SKINNER'S MOTHER, and, for some reason, MOE. They are all carrying signs and earnestly buttonholding PASSERSBY to try to convert them.

MARGE

(TO PASSERBY) I know these just seem
like harmless cartoons, but one of them
turned my beautiful little baby girl
into an unstoppable killing machine.

SAME SCENE - SOMETIME LATER

There are now at least THIRTY PEOPLE picketing in front of Itchy & Scratchy International. A FEW PEOPLE who work at I & S International push through them and go through the gate and are BOOED soundly.

EXT. PARK - DUSK

Marge, flanked by members of her group, is standing on a soapbox **SPEAKING** through a megaphone to a SMALL GROUP of casually interested people.

MARGE

(THROUGH MEGAPHONE, TIMIDLY AT FIRST)
I'm here to talk to you about a problem
that affects all of us... (VIOLENTLY)
... VIOLENCE!

The crowd instinctively backs up a pace, then crowds forward to hear more.

SAME SCENE - AFTER NIGHTFALL

The crowd has grown substantially and is transfixed. Bart and Lisa are standing off to one side, watching her.

MARGE (CONT'D)

(THROUGH MEGAPHONE) And what happens when a child grows up with insanely violent role models like these? The answer is all around you. How many of you were hit on the head with mallets last week?

Everyone in the crowd looks at everyone else in the crowd. Finally EIGHT MEN with bandaged heads sheepishly raise their hands. The crowd ROARS with excitement.

LISA

(TO BART) Mom's a surprisingly good speaker.

BART

Yeah, but we Simpsons don't have a chance against America's favorite TV show.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - DINING ROOM - VERY LATE THAT NIGHT

The family is unhappily eating TV dinners.

HOMER

(TOYING WITH HIS TV DINNER) I didn't know they still made TV dinners this bad.

BART

After dinner, can I watch cartoons?

MARGE

No.

BART

(SHRUGGING) It was worth a try.

HOMER

(WHINING) There's peas in my fruit
cobbler.

LISA

There's peas everywhere.

MARGE

I'm sorry. I'll make up for it
tomorrow night.

Bart gets up from the table.

BART

(STRETCHING) Well, guess I'll go watch
cartoons.

MARGE

No.

Bart exits grumpily.

MARGE (CONT'D)

(TO HOMER) I'm amazed how much I enjoy
swaying a crowd. I never knew I had
this hidden talent for demagoguery.

LISA

Even though I disagree with what you've
been saying, I'm proud of you for
saying it in such an inflammatory
manner.

MARGE

Thank you, dear.

Bart pokes his head back in the dining room.

BART

Who's up for some cartoons?

MARGE

No one.

Bart exits, making a face.

HOMER

Hey, tomorrow night, how about making
some of your patented pork chops and
your award winning apple sauce?

MARGE

All right. (THINKS)... Oh, no. I
can't. I've got three protest rallies
tomorrow.

HOMER

(MOAN) Twenty million women in the
world and I had to marry Jane Fonda.

EXT. STORE - NEXT DAY

The camera PANS a store window loaded with products. All
are endorsed by Itchy & Scratchy. We see Itchy & Scratchy
baseball bats, knives, jams and jellies, time bombs,
assault rifles, cigarettes and Itchy & Scratchy cologne.

NEW ANGLE

Marge and her followers are smashing bottles of the cologne
in front of the store. They are carrying signs that say
"Don't Buy Products Endorsed by Either Of These People"
with arrows pointing to pictures of Itchy & Scratchy.
Several SHOPPERS read the signs, dump out their shopping
bags and join the demonstration.

SHOPOWNER

(SMALL HELPLESS VOICE) Go away.

Please go away.

INT. TV STUDIO - KRUSTY SET

Marge and her group occupy nearly every seat in the "Mouse Gallery" and about half the seats in the less prestigious "Cat Box". The CAMERA PANS their grim set faces. The few KIDS in the audience are glancing nervously at the adults.

NEW ANGLE

Krusty and SIDESHOW MEL are on stage going through their act, seemingly unaware of the adults in the audience.

KRUSTY

Guess what, Sideshow Mel? It's time
for Itchy & Scratchy!

Over fifty percent of the audience immediately begins BOOING and waving signs that say "Down With Itchy & Scratchy", "Kancel Krusty" and "Don't Make Me Laugh" Krusty frowns.

KRUSTY (CONT'D)

Settle down, boys and girls, or Krusty
will have to bring out our old friend
Corporal Punishment again.

ON CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

A big fat scowling man in a wacky corporal's uniform, glowering at the audience. The BOOING grows louder. Marge stands up and leads her group in a CHANT. Krusty shields his eyes from the glare of the spotlight so he can see into the audience as the demonstration grows.

MARGE

(LEADING CHANT) What do we want?

HER GROUP

(ALL AT ONCE) Substantially-less-
violence-in-children's-programming!

MARGE

When do we want it?

HER GROUP

(ALL AT ONCE) Now!

MARGE

What do we want?

HER GROUP

Substantially-less-violence-in-
children's-programming!

MARGE

When do we want it?

HER GROUP

Now!

KRUSTY

(HELPLESS NERVOUS KRUSTY LAUGH)

MATCH DISSOLVE
TO:

SAME SCENE ON TV SCREEN

PULL BACK TO

INT. ITCHY & SCRATCHY INTERNATIONAL - BOARDROOM

The BOARD MEMBERS, Roger Myers, and Krusty are watching the tape of the show on a bank of televisions. On the many screens, Krusty is still **LAUGHING** nervously, sweating buckets as the audience continues to **CHANT**. The chairman hits a button and all the sets go blank.

MYERS

Our worst show yet.

KRUSTY

I'm sorry, Mr. Myers.

MYERS

(GRUFFLY) It's not your fault. It's that woman. That screwball, Marge Simpson. She's trying to undermine the foundation of our valuable empire: Violence. Without that, all we've got is a big dumb cat and an oversized mouse. We've got to stop her. But how?

No one says anything. All the board members look at each other.

MYERS (CONT'D)

(ANGRILY) How??!!??

ANIMATOR

(QUICKLY) Drop an anvil on her?

1ST BOARD MEMBER

Hit her on the head with a piano?

2ND BOARD MEMBER

Stuff her full of TNT, then throw a match down her throat and run?

MYERS

All your fancy degrees and that's the best you can do?

Silence. Several members shift in their chairs uneasily.

MYERS (CONT'D)

Well... work on it.

EXT. I & S INTERNATIONAL - FRONT GATE

Marge's protest has grown so large it's blocking traffic. Several POLICEMEN are there directing traffic around the PROTESTORS. One of the policemen is carrying one of Marge's signs. The Animator looks out of his office window at Marge and frowns.

INT. I & S INTERNATIONAL - ANIMATOR'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The Animator absently begins to draw a cruel caricature of Marge. As he does this, his bad mood seems to melt away. He holds the completed drawing up to the light, admiring it, then starts drawing out a storyboard furiously.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - A WEEK LATER

Marge is sitting on a chair in front of the TV with her loose leaf violence notebook. She is once again monitoring cartoons. Homer is sitting on the couch **CHUCKLING** at the cartoons.

HOMER

You know, some of these stories are pretty good. I didn't know mice lived such interesting lives.

MARGE

It's hard to believe, but the violence seems to be getting even more brutal and senseless. I don't know if I'm having any impact at all.

Marge looks at the TV, pencil poised.

ON TV

We see Itchy & Scratchy, dressed as big league ball players, beating the hell out of each other with baseball bats. An irritating SQUIRREL-like character which looks insultingly like Marge is standing next to them, harping at them.

SQUIRREL

(MARGE-LIKE VOICE) Don't do that!

Don't do that! Hey! Don't DO that!

Itchy and Scratchy stop clouting each other and look down at the squirrel. Itchy swings his bat and knocks the squirrel's head out of the ballpark. The crowd cheers. They shake hands and smile at the camera.

IRIS IN

SUPER: "THE END"

BACK TO MARGE

Her eyes blazing.

HOMER

Hey, that squirrel looked kind of like
you, you know that Marge? (BEAT)
Marge?

MARGE

(SEETHING) Mmmmmmmph!

The phone **RINGS**. Marge, still seething, picks it up.

MARGE (CONT'D)

(INTO PHONE, TESTY) What is it? What?
"Smartline?" Yes, I've heard of your
show. (LISTENS, STILL ANGRY) I'd love
to.

She **SLAMS** down the phone. After a moment, she realizes what she's just agreed to.

MARGE (CONT'D)

Homer, I'm going to be on television!

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SEVERAL DAYS LATER

Homer, Bart, Lisa and Maggie are watching TV.

ON TV

We see the opening titles and hear the **FANFARE** like theme for "Smartline". The date this episode will be broadcast is supered on the screen.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

(IMPRESSIVELY) Smartline! With Kent
Brockman!

LISA

(POINTING) There she is!

Mortises of the participants in the discussion come up on screen.

MATCH DISSOLVE
TO:

INT. TV STUDIO - SET OF "SMARTLINE"

The show's distinctive **THEME MUSIC** fades and the **CAMERA MOVES IN** for a closeup of the moderator, **KENT BROCKMAN**.

CLOSEUP - KENT BROCKMAN

BROCKMAN

Hello, Im Kent Brockman, and welcome to
another edition of "Smartline". (BEAT)
Are cartoons too violent for children?
Most people would say 'no. Of course
not. What kind of stupid question is
that?' But one woman says 'yes'.
She's here with us tonight. Mrs. Marge
Simpson.

CLOSEUP - MARGE

SUPER: "MARGE SIMPSON. FOUNDER OF S.N.U.H."

CAMERA PANS - PANEL

BROCKMAN (CONT'D)

Also with us for this "animated"
discussion... (CHUCKLES)... are Roger
Myers, Chairman of the board of Itchy &
Scratchy International...

Roger Myers nods to the camera.

BROCKMAN (CONT'D)

... Krusty the Klown, whose delightful
program brings us Itchy & Scratchy
every afternoon at four...

KRUSTY

(KRUSTY LAUGH)

SFX: HORN HONK

BROCKMAN

And, joining us live via satellite from
Vienna, the home of Sigmund Freud - the
world's most famous psychiatrist - to
give us an insight into the inner
workings of the human mind, Dr. Marvin
Monroe.

We see MARVIN MONROE on a monitor. He nods.

MARVIN MONROE

Hiya.

BROCKMAN

Now, first let's see what all the excitement is about. Here's an example of the work currently being turned out at I & S Studios.

All turn to look at the monitor. Marvin Monroe also turns.

ON TV

We see Itchy put a ladder up against Scratchy, who has tweety birds circling around his ears. He quickly climbs to the top of Scratchy and jams a lit stick of dynamite through Scratchy's ears. Scratchy screams and runs over to a water trough, sticking his head in. After a beat, there is a muffled **EXPLOSION**, a jet of water shoots up into the air, and Scratchy's body goes limp.

BACK TO PANEL

Brockman is wiping tears from his eyes.

BROCKMAN (CONT'D)

Hilarious. (TURNS TO MARGE) Now, what in the world is wrong with that, Mrs. Simpson?

MARGE

(UNCOMFORTABLE, EYEING CAMERA) Well... I think it's a bad influence on children. My little girl, Maggie, who isn't even old enough to talk, learned enough from one Itchy & Scratchy cartoon to totally disable a 240 pound man.

BROCKMAN

(WHISTLES) 240!

BACK TO HOMER & KIDS

Homer, who is eating potato chips, looks pained.

HOMER

Oh, Marge! It's 239!

BACK TO PANEL

MARGE

And I think that many of the problems parents are having with their children are caused by these awful cartoons.

MYERS

(A LITTLE AWKWARD) I think that is baloney, Kent. And here is why. In preparing for this debate, I did a little research and I discovered a startling thing. There was violence in the past, long before cartoons were invented.

BROCKMAN

(LIKE STEVE ALLEN) I see. Fascinating.

MYERS

There was something called the Crusades, for instance. Tremendous violence. Many people killed.

BROCKMAN

And this was before cartoons were invented?

MYERS

That's right, Kent. And, unless I am mistaken, there was also something called the Civil War, in which even more guys got killed. And yet not one of these people had been watching cartoons. (TO MARGE) So much for your viewpoint.

MARGE

(SNORTS)

BROCKMAN

Dr. Monroe, would you care to comment on this controversy?

CLOSEUP - MARVIN MONROE

DR. MONROE

Well, Kent... to me, the antics or... hijinks - call them what you will - of a few comic characters pale in comparison with the crippling emotional problems a psychiatrist runs into every day. I'm referring to women who love too much, fear of winning, sexaholism... stuff like that.

BROCKMAN

So you have no professional objection to Itchy & Scratchy?

DR. MONROE

Not at all. In fact, one of my guilty little pleasures is to get a big bucket of buttered popcorn, dim the lights, turn on Itchy & Scratchy, and laugh. And what the hell is wrong with that?

BACK TO PANEL

BROCKMAN

(CHUCKLING) Not a thing. (TURNS TO MARGE) Now, Mrs. Simpson...

CAMERA PANS TO KRUSTY

Krusty immediately starts bouncing around in his seat and mugging for the camera.

KRUSTY

(KRUSTY LAUGH) Hi kids!!!

BROCKMAN

(SEVERELY) Krusty, please. We're giving you an opportunity to participate in a serious discussion.

Krusty settles down.

KRUSTY

(APOLOGETICALLY) I'm sorry, Kent.

It's just that when the camera gets on me... (NOTICES CAMERA)... HEY HEY!!!

Krusty starts capering around, HONKING his horn and blindsides himself with a pie.

BROCKMAN

(BARKING) Krusty!

Krusty's smile fades. He sits back down and looks sullenly at the table. Marge turns to Roger Myers and waggles her notebook at him.

MARGE

Mr. Myers, I've catalogued the violence in your cartoons and found that they contain an average of 58 violent acts per minute.

MYERS

Big deal. 58. You don't know how much we sanitize these things before they're suitable for the tiny tots. You should see our first drafts. Whoo! Adults only!

MARGE

I don't understand how you can do this to our children.

MYERS

(SHRUGS) It's a living.

MARGE

(OUTRAGED) A living!

MYERS

Look lady, I didn't invent the atom bomb down the pants, I just use it in pursuit of my art, okay?

BROCKMAN

(TRYING TO MAKE PEACE) Is that okay with you, Mrs. Simpson?

MARGE

Of course not.

BROCKMAN

(CHUCKLES) Well, it looks like we're not going to settle this tonight. Mrs. Simpson, in the nine seconds we have left, would you like to summarize your position?

CLOSEUP - MARGE

MARGE

Yes. I'd like to ask all the parents in Springfield who are concerned about this to write in and let the cartoon makers know how you feel. Thank you.

INT. I & S INTERNATIONAL - BOARD ROOM - NEXT DAY

Roger Myers is leaning back in his chair looking very pleased. There are several board members in his office. On his desk is a single letter.

MYERS

Well, we did it. We made her look like a complete idiot. Look at this: One letter. We don't have to change our cartoons at all over one lousy letter.

A door opens and ten uniformed POSTAL WORKERS troop in carrying sacks of mail. They empty them out on the chairman's desk. The overflow cascades onto the floor. The chairman paws at them, his face suddenly pale

FADE OUT:

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. SIMPSON KITCHEN - FEW DAYS LATER

Marge is once again preparing her special pork chops. This time she is using Homer's deformed spice rack. The jars are pointing in all directions and are either too loose or jammed in too tight. She wiggles one of the bottles until it comes out.

HOMER

Marge, I've said it before and I'll say it again. You make the best pork chops in the whole world.

MARGE

Oh Homer, I do not.

The phone **RINGS**. Marge picks up the kitchen extension, props the receiver between her shoulder blade and neck and continues breading the pork chops.

MARGE

(INTO PHONE) Hello?

INT. I & S INTERNATIONAL - ROGER MYERS' OFFICE

Myers is sitting at his drawing board, looking at a half completed storyboard.

MYERS

(INTO PHONE) Is this Marge Simpson?
The Marge Simpson who fixed it so
cartoons can't be violent anymore?

MARGE (O.S.)

(THROUGH PHONE) Yes?

MYERS

(INTO PHONE) Okay then, you're so smart, how do we end this picture?

BACK TO MARGE

She stops breading the pork chops and listens, baffled. Then she covers up the mouthpiece and turns to Homer, who is raiding the refrigerator.

MARGE

Homer, they want me to help them write a cartoon.

HOMER

(SHOVING FOOD IN HIS MOUTH. NOT PAYING ATTENTION) You write the best cartoons in the world, Marge.

MARGE

(INTO PHONE) Well... what's the problem you're having?

BACK TO MYERS

We look over his shoulder as he goes through the storyboard, frame by frame.

MYERS

(INTO PHONE) Okay, here it is. Itchy just stole Scratchy's food. Scratchy is understandably upset. And, of course, he wants revenge. Next we figured that Scratchy - the protagonist - could grab Itchy and toss him in a bucket of acid.

BACK TO MARGE

MARGE

(INTO PHONE) Oh dear!

BACK TO MYERS

MYERS

(INTO PHONE) But then we remembered that this might be interpreted as violence which is morally wrong now, thanks to you. So what's your big idea? How do we end this?

BACK TO MARGE

MARGE

(INTO PHONE) Oh my... I don't know... I'm not really a cartoonist... though I did paint a little when I was in high school... in fact, I won a...
(LISTENS)... no, you're right. That isn't important. Well... let's see... couldn't Itchy share his food with Scratchy? Then they would both have food.

BACK TO MYERS

MYERS

(THOUGHTFULLY STROKING HIS CHIN, INTO PHONE) I never thought of that... it's different... okay, we'll try it.

Myers hangs up the phone, picks up his pencil and begins sketching in Marge's idea.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - A WEEK LATER

Bart, Lisa and Maggie are sitting on the floor, half-watching an hour long commercial that Homer seems to be fascinated by.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

It's a tool that every home handyman
needs. It's a jigsaw! It's a power
drill! It's a wood-turning lathe!
It's an asphalt spreader! It's sixty
seven tools in one! How much would you
pay for a machine that can do all this?

HOMER

One thousand dollars.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Don't answer yet...

HOMER

Oh, sorry.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

... because you also get...

Marge enters and changes the channel. We see Krusty's face on the screen and hear his Krusty **LAUGH**. The kids sit up, wide-eyed. Maggie **SUCKS** excitedly.

HOMER

(MILD PROTEST) I was watching that.

MARGE

It's time for Krusty.

BART

You mean we can watch cartoons again,
Mom?

MARGE

Yes, dear. All you want.

BART/LISA

All right!

MAGGIE

(SUCKS)

BART

Turn it up!

The kids scoot forward on their butts until they are less than a foot from the TV.

KRUSTY (O.S.)

Hey kids! It's time for Itchy &
Scratchy!

ON TV

We see the new opening titles for the Itchy & Scratchy Show. Itchy & Scratchy run towards the camera, smiling and exchanging gifts.

ITCHY & SCRATCHY SINGERS

(SINGING) "They love / they share /
They share and love and share / love
love love / share share share / The
Itchy & Scratchy Showwww!"

TITLE CARD - "PORCH PALS"

Itchy & Scratchy are sitting side by side, rocking on old fashioned rocking chairs.

SCRATCHY

Lemonade?

ITCHY

Please!

Scratchy pours a tall refreshing glass of lemonade and hands it to Itchy.

SCRATCHY

I made it just for you.

ITCHY

You are my best friend.

BACK TO BART & LISA

BART

(MAKING A FACE) This sucks.

LISA

Itchy and Scratchy seem to have lost their edge.

MARGE

I think it conveys a very nice message of sharing.

BART

Maybe. But it sucks too.

Maggie walks up to Homer and holds out a glass of juice to him. Homer shrinks back in fear. We hear a few small **PSYCHO STINGS**.

HOMER

(SCREAM) ... Oh thank you, Maggie.

MARGE

Look everyone! Here comes another one.

ON TV

TITLE CARD - "BACKYARD BUDDIES"

Itchy & Scratchy are standing in the backyard exchanging nicely wrapped gifts. They each have received about fourteen gifts already.

ITCHY

Here's another present for you,
Scratchy.

SCRATCHY

Thank you, Itchy. And I've got a
present for you too!

BACK TO BART & LISA

BART

This is the worst cartoon in the world.

KRUSTY (O.S.)

Wasn't that funny, boys and girls?

(FRUSTRATED) (A LITTLE TOUGH) Well?

Wasn't it?

There are a few half-hearted **CHEERS** from the audience.

BACK TO SIMPSON LIVING ROOM

Bart turns off the TV and all three kids get up to leave.

MARGE

Aren't you going to watch the rest of
your cute cartoons?

BART

Nah.

LISA

They're just not the same anymore.

BART

Come on, Lis. Maybe there's something
else to do on this planet.

They exit.

HOMER

Well, you did it Marge. You finally
got the kids to stop watching cartoons.

MARGE

I don't understand why they didn't like
"Porch Pals." (BEAT) Oh well... maybe
now the children will find better ways
to spend their time. Reading, playing,
taking an interest in new things, going
to museums...

HOMER

Yeah, right.

INT. MILHOUSE'S HOUSE

Milhouse is watching Itchy and Scratchy slow dancing. He
makes a face, turns off the TV, wanders outside and begins
throwing a ball against the garage and catching it.

INT. JANEY'S HOUSE

Janey is watching Itchy and Scratchy smile and blink at the
camera, making no attempt to do anything resembling action.
She **SIGHS**, turns off the TV, goes outside and begins
jumping rope.

AERIAL VIEW OF NEIGHBORHOOD

CHILDREN are streaming out of their homes. They blink and
rub their eyes, due to the unaccustomed sunlight. They
begin to play.

AERIAL VIEW OF SPRINGFIELD

The camera swoops through neighborhood after neighborhood.
Children are playing baseball, frisbee, fishing, and
whitewashing a fence.

MUSIC: BEETHOVEN'S 6TH SYMPHONY (PASTORAL PART)

INT. MUSEUM

A bemused MOTHER is talking to a MUSEUM GUARD as her CHILDREN join Bart, Lisa, and other neighborhood KIDS examining the paintings and sculptures.

MOTHER

I don't understand it. They never
wanted to go to museums before.

INT. TV STUDIO - SET OF KRUSTY THE KLOWN

After some ZANY THEME MUSIC, Krusty bounces out of the wings.

KRUSTY

Hi kids!

He looks around.

NEW ANGLE

The studio audience is empty. **SFX: CRICKETS.**

KRUSTY (CONT'D)

(DISMAYED KRUSTY LAUGH)

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - BART'S ROOM

Bart is taking down a picture of Itchy & Scratchy and replacing it with an obscure work by Toulouse Lautrec. The room is dazzling neat and clean.

INT. SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - CLASSROOM

MRS. KRABAPPLE is watching her class as they study, work out math problems for themselves on the blackboard, work with clay in the back of the room, and practice their penmanship. The clock says 2:55. The bell **RINGS**. The children look up, but then continue working.

MRS. KRABAPPLE

(FIRMLY, BUT PUZZLED) Children... I'm
sorry, but the bell has rung. School
is over. You can learn more tomorrow.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - DINING ROOM

The family is eating dinner.

MARGE

So what did you kids do today?

BART

Me and the guys went fishing. Almost caught a catfish this big. (STRETCHES ARMS WIDE)

LISA

And Janey and I went bird watching. We saw a grackle.

MARGE

That's nice dear.

BART

Come on, Lis. Let's go finish our soapbox racers.

LISA

Okay.

They exit.

HOMER

(AWE) Wow. What great kids. This is the golden age, Marge. And the parents of Springfield owe it all to you.

MARGE

I really didn't expect things to change this much.

INT. ART MUSEUM - FLORENCE, ITALY

SUPER: "FLORENCE, ITALY"

WORKMEN are putting Michelangelo's David into a huge orange crate for shipping. The museum's CURATOR is speaking to a small group of REPORTERS.

CURATOR

(ITALIAN ACCENT) This will be the art event of the century. The greatest masterpiece of the Italian Renaissance, Michelangelo's David on a coast to coast tour of the United States.

REPORTER

Which cities will be included in your itinerary?

CURATOR

New York...

The reporters nod and write this down.

CURATOR (CONT'D)

... Springfield...

The reporters nod and write this down.

CURATOR (CONT'D)

... and if we have time, Chicago,
Boston and Los Angeles.

The reporters nod and write this down.

CLOSEUP - NEWSPAPER

The headline is "Art Treasure To Visit Springfield" Underneath the headline is a photograph of the statue. The caption underneath the photograph says "Michaelangelo's David in 1958."

PULL BACK

TO REVEAL MARGE - HOLDING PAPER

MARGE

Bart! Lisa! An art treasure is coming here. Michelangelo's David!

BART

Nuts. I was hoping it would be "Bound Slave", which I consider to be a vastly superior and often neglected work.

LISA

Still, it will be good to see David.

BART

Indubitably!

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - MARGE & HOMER'S BEDROOM - NEXT MORNING

Marge is awakened by a **NOISY** crowd on her front lawn and an insistent **POUNDING** on the front door.

MARGE

(SLEEPILY) What in the world?

She puts on a robe and hurries downstairs.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - FOYER

Marge opens the door. Dozens of members of her protest group are standing on the walk waivng anti-nudity signs. Many of the signs are just the old anti-violence signs with references to nudity painted in.

HELEN LOVEJOY

Get dressed. You've got to lead our protest against this abomination!

Helen hands Marge a newspaper. We see it is last night's paper with the story about the statue coming to town.

MARGE

(MYSTIFIED) That's Michelangelo's
David. It's a masterpiece!

HELEN LOVEJOY

(CORRECTING HER) It's filth. It
graphically portrays parts of the human
body which - practical as they may
be...

MAUDE FLANDERS

(HOLLERING FROM THE BACK) If they were
meant to be seen in public, they
wouldn't be called privates!

HELEN LOVEJOY

Good one, Maude.

MARGE

But I like that statue. I think it's
good.

HELEN LOVEJOY

It's not. Now come on. Get dressed.
Without your leadership we are nothing.

MARGE

I'm sorry, but I can't be a part of
this.

HELEN LOVEJOY

Who needs you? Come on girls.

The group marches off.

EXT. SPRINGFIELD AIRPORT

The crate holding David is on the tarmac just below the cargo door of a jumbo jet. Several AIRLINE OFFICIALS are looking at it doubtfully, and POLICEMEN are trying to hold back the surging CROWD of sign carrying protesters. The CURATOR seems unable to make sense of what is going on.

CURATOR

What is all this about? What do you people want?

PROTESTOR

We want you, (POINTS AT STATUE) to get your big Italian butt (SWEEPS ARM IN THE DIRECTION OF ITALY) outta here!

ON TV

We are watching another edition of "Smartline". The CAMERA PANS today's panel. It is comprised of Marge, Helen Lovejoy, the curator, the statue - out of its crate and wearing a pair of slacks - and Dr. Marvin Monroe with the ruins of the Coliseum behind him. There is a SUPER: Live via satellite from the Coliseum.

BROCKMAN

Is it a masterpiece? Or just some guy with his pants down? That's our topic tonight on "Smartline". (TURNS TO MARGE) Now, Mrs. Simpson, why are you against this statue?

MARGE

I'm not. I think everyone in Springfield should see it.

HELEN LOVEJOY

(POINTING AT MARGE) Filth Jobber!

BROCKMAN

Wait a minute. Aren't you Marge Simpson, the whacko?

MARGE

Well, yes and no.

BROCKMAN

How can you be for one form of freedom of expression, like (INDICATES STATUE) our big naked friend here, and be against another form, like Itchy and Scratchy?

MARGE

(THINKS) Well... I guess I can't, which is a shame because I really hate those cartoons. (THINKS AGAIN. THEN SIGHS) I guess I was wrong. Not completely wrong, just wrong enough to be terribly embarrassed.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - WEEK LATER

Bart and Lisa are watching TV.

ON TV

Itchy and Scratchy are pulling bigger and bigger guns on each other until the guns dwarf the earth. One fires and Scratchy is blown into the sun. He jumps **YOWLING** out of the sun and runs around in space with his tail on fire.

BACK TO LIVING ROOM

Bart and Lisa **LAUGH**. Maggie picks up a suction-cup dart gun and stalks out of the room.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - MARGE AND HOMER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Marge and Homer are lying in bed. Marge's eyes are wide open. She has her table lamp on.

HOMER

(SLEEPILY) What's wrong, Marge?

MARGE

I don't know, Homer. The world's just so confusing.

HOMER

Is it ever. Sometimes it makes my brain hurt.

MARGE

Some people like one thing, some people like another thing. Some people even like things nobody should like at all.

HOMER

You know what you need? A great big Homer hug.

MARGE

I don't think that will help.

HOMER

You never know 'til you try.

The lights **CLICK** off. We hear **HUGGING SOUNDS** and **GIGGLING**. Suddenly we hear a **DART GUN** being fired.

HOMER

Ow!

Homer switches on the light. We see he has a dart stuck to the top of his head. He sees Maggie reloading the dart gun.

HOMER

(SCREAMS)

FADE OUT:

THE END